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RAVDA (Cont'd.)

The great poets and writers of the brother republics have created a number of excellent translations. For this millions of working people are grateful to them. However many translations do not answer at all to the demands of the readers...

The well-known words of Mayakovsky: "From the skies of poetry I fling myself into communism" have in the translation by the Kazakh poet, K. Zharmagambetov, been subjected to the following distortion: "I fall from the skies (!), to the astonishment of the whole world".

Crudely mangled by the translator is the following lofty, passionate thought of the poet: "I do not wish to be plucked as a flower from the fields, after the labours of service". The translator has succeeded in exactly reversing the sense: "I wish to be plucked as a flower of the field by my friends, as they return from work"...

In some republics the great classical works which are the pride and glory of Russian and world literature have not been translated to this day. Literary workers, in undertaking translations, are forgetting their responsibilities. Thus, for example, as early as March 1946 the Kazakh writer, G. Musrepov, concluded an agreement with the publishers by which he was to translate "Anna Karenina". All his time limits have long since expired, and still no translation has been forthcoming. The writers, Mukanov, and later A. Tazhibayev, undertook to translate "War and Peace", but later first one and then the other neglected his duties...

No branch of our literature can develop successfully except in conditions of an extensive Bolshevik criticism and self-criticism. But the Union of Soviet Writers of the USSR and the unions of writers of the republics are almost completely neglecting creative discussions on questions of artistic mastery in the domain of translation. The press of the republics, the central and republican literary-artistic journals are paying unforgivably little attention to the work of translators. Not one of the central journals dealt this year with questions of translation, and last year only one article on the subject was published.

Our publishers - Goslitizdat, "Soviet Writer", Detizdat - are lax in work with translators, whilst some local publishers automatically publish everything which this or that translator brings to them, failing to pick out the best and to reject what is bad in the translations.

It must be noted that some local Party organisations pay insufficient attention to questions of translating the classics and the best works of literature of the peoples of the Soviet Union...

The Central Committee of our Party in its decrees on ideological questions demands from literary workers a high degree of responsibility for their work before the people, depth of idea-content and perfection in artistic mastery. This demand of the Party is fully applicable also to those literary workers who are working in the field of translation.

The translation of literature is an

IZVESTIYA

INTRODUCE THE NEW IRRIGATION SYSTEM FASTER
(Leading Article)

...In the fields of the Volga area and in the Fergana Valley in Uzbekistan, in the dry steppes of Khakassia and the oases of Turkmenia, collective farm practical workers and scientists armed with the most advanced Soviet achievements worked determinedly on evolving a new and more progressive system of irrigation. The experience of the innovators received state support. On the basis of scientific information and generalisation of the experience of leading collective farms and the achievements of scientific research institutions the Council of Ministers of the USSR worked out a new, genuinely scientific system of irrigation, which corresponds to the level of development of our agriculture.

Under the new system of irrigation the dense network of permanent irrigation canals is replaced by temporary ones, which are made when inundation is to be carried out and filled in again to suit the needs of the mechanisation of the soil cultivation and attending the crops. These temporary canals are to be cut and filled in by machinery. The system of temporary irrigation canals will make it possible to utilise irrigated land more fully, increase the size of the irrigated fields and thus increase the degree of mechanisation of agricultural work.

The Soviet government's decision to transfer to the new system of irrigation became a programme of action for the workers on irrigated agriculture in our country. The state sent the necessary quantity of up-to-date machinery for mechanising the most laborious work involved in the reorganisation of the irrigation system to the areas where irrigated agriculture is practised. In those places where transfer to the new irrigation system is being successfully carried out the collective and state farms have already appreciated its enormous advantages...

Work is being developed for the reorganisation of the irrigation system in the Uzbek SSR. Over 2,000 drivers for dredging and planing machines and about 3,000 collective farm instructors have been trained here. Plans for the reconstruction of the irrigation system and the enlargement of the irrigated fields have been prepared for nearly 2,000 collective farms. The new system of irrigation has been adopted over an area of nearly 300,000 hectares.

As a result of the reorganisation the average size of the irrigated fields in those collective farms where the work is being carried out has increased from 1.5-3 to 30 and more hectares.

The productivity of tractors has increased considerably on the lands of collective farms which have enlarged their irrigated fields and introduced the new methods of inundation. For example, in collective farms in Tashkent oblast machine drivers have increased their output of work by 30% on fields where the new system of irrigation is in use.

At the same time it must be pointed out that Soviet and agricultural organs have far from everywhere ensured the fulfilment of the state plan for the reconstruction of the irrigation system and the transfer to the new system of irrigation. In Taldy-Kurgan oblast of the Kazakh SSR the spring plan for this work